

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 AID-05 /056 W

----- 091069

R 290900Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 27780

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5560

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: AQUINO CASE DEVELOPMENTS: PERPETUATION HEARINGS TO RESUME  
APRIL 30

REF: MANILA 5399

1. THE MILITARY COMMISSIONS'S PERPETUATION PROCEEDINGS ON  
AQUINO WILL RESUME 9 AM APRIL 29. ACTING PRESIDENT OF MILI-  
TARY COMMISSION \$2 ORDERED RESUMPTION OF HEARINGS FOLLOWING  
MOTION BY MILITARY PROSECUTOR WHO ARGUED SUPREME COURT RESO-  
LUTION OF APRIL 25 (REFTEL) LIFTED COURT'S APRIL 8 RESTRAINING  
ORDE ON PERPETUATION HEARINGS.

2. FORT BONIFACIO AUTHORITIES ISSUED MEDICAL BULLETIN ON 24TH  
DAY OF AQUINO'S HUNGER STRIKE. HIS PULSE RATE, BLOOD PRESSURE,  
RESPIRATORY AND HEART CONDITIONS WERE REPORTEDLY NORMAL.  
BULLETIN SAID "HE APPEARED IN GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE AND IN HIGH  
SPIRITS AND RECEIVED HIS USUAL VISITORS, INCLUDING IMMEDIATE  
MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY AND LAWYERS. DURING WEEKEND, HIS  
WIFE WAS ALLOWED TO STAY OVERNIGHT. A TEAM OF DOCTORS  
IS ATTENDING HIM". MEDICAL BULLETIN ISSUED AS CHEIF MILI-  
TARY PROSECUTOR, COL. SISON COMMENTED: "THE NEWS AFLOAT  
THAT MR. AQUINO IS ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE OR EVEN THAT  
HE HAS EXPIRED IS FALSE." BULLETIN TODAY REPORTS AQUINO  
FAMILY CLAIM THAT HE HAS LOST 33 POUNDS AND NOW WEIGHS  
ONLY 127 POUNDS.

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3. AQUINO HAS REPORTEDLY INFORMED COURT HE WILL ATTEND

HEARING IN PERSON DESPITE SUPREME COURT RULING HIS PRESENCE COULD BE COMPELLED BY PROSECUTION ONLY TO IDENTIFY STATE WITNESSES. FIRST WITNESS TOMORROW (APRIL 29) EXPECTED TO BE "COMMANDER MELODY" (BENJAMIN BIE) WHO WAS ON STAND WHEN HEARINGS SUSPENDED.

4. COMMENT: AQUINO'S PURPORTED DECISION TO APPEAR AT HEARING CARRIES ISSUE TO GOP AND IS IN KEEPING WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT AQUINO, IF NOT HIS FOLLOWERS, APPEARS SUPREMELY CONFIDENT HE IS DOING THE RIGHT THING. RECENT VISITORS HAVE COME AWAY IMPRESSED WITH SOBER, ALMOST RELIGIOUS CONVICTION OF AQUINO IN RIGHTEOUSNESS OF HIS CONTEST WITH MARCOS. OUTCOME, AS AQUINO PHRASES IT, IS "IN GOD'S HANDS". AQUINO ATTITUDE IS NOT CONDUCIVE TO NEGOTIATIONS ALTHOUGH HIS FRIENDS MAY SEEK TO ACT FOR HIM.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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